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Joseph A. CALIFANO, Jr.

Secretary of Health, Education  
and Welfare

 29 JUN 1977

As chief adviser to President Lyndon Johnson on domestic issues during 1965-69, Joseph Califano was once described as "deputy President of the Great Society." He helped launch many of the innovative programs for which he is now responsible, as Secretary of the government's largest department. He has acquired a reputation as an energetic and hard-working manager in the course of his government career, which included 4 years in various assignments in the Department of Defense before he replaced Bill Moyers as Johnson's adviser. After leaving the White House, Califano became a partner in Edward Bennet Williams' law firm in Washington. (He also served until 1972 as general counsel for the Democratic National Committee.)

The son of an Italian-born fruit vendor, Joseph Califano was born in Brooklyn. He is a graduate of Holy Cross College and the Harvard University Law School. After serving in the Pentagon during 1955-58 as a navy legal officer, he took a job doing tax and securities work for the law firm then headed by former New York Governor Thomas Dewey. In 1961 he left New York to become a special assistant to Cyrus Vance, then general counsel of the Defense Department, and continued as his assistant when Vance became Secretary of the Army in 1962. Califano was general counsel of the army in 1963 and then (1964) special assistant to Robert McNamara, who was Defense Secretary, and to Vance, one of McNamara's deputies.

Califano, 45, is married and has three children. He plays tennis and is a devoted follower of the Washington Redskins.

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